REMARKS

The subject application is a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 09/957,507, filed September 20, 2001. The subject application also claims the benefit of priority from Japanese Application Nos. 2000-286477, 2001-068588 and 2001-214930, filed September 21, 2000, March 12, 2001 and July 16, 2001.

By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 1-17. Accordingly, claims 18-20 are now pending and presented for examination in this application.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the telephone number provided below.

No fee, other than the $770.00 application fee for the divisional application filed concurrently herewith, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,

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